

REMARKS

Claims 1, 18, 33, 36, 38 and 48 have been amended. Claims 7, 10-17, 22, 26-32, 42-47 and 49 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-6, 8, 9, 18-21, 23-25, 33-41, 48, 50 and 51 are now pending in the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter:

The Examiner stated that claims 7, 22 and 49 were objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant believes that the claims are allowable as previously written. However, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicant has amended several of the claims to accept the allowable subject matter as indicated by the Examiner.

More specifically, independent claims 1, 18, 33, 36, 38 and 48 have been amended to include allowable subject matter from claims 7, 22 and 49, and claims 7, 22, and 49 have been canceled.

Section 102(e) Rejection:

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 10-15, 18-21, 28-30, 42-45 and 48 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Alexander James Burke (U.S. Patent 6,032,162) (hereinafter “Burke”). As noted above, Applicant has amended the claims to include the allowable subject matter. Further, Applicant has canceled rejected claims 10-15, 28-30 and 42-47. Thus, this rejection is moot.

Section 103(a) Rejections:

The Examiner rejected claims 8, 9, 16, 17, 23-25, 31, 32, 46, 47, 50 and 51 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burke in view of De Greef et al. (U.S. Patent 6,549,217) (hereinafter “De Greef”), and claims 33-41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burke in view of Mendelevitch, et al. (EP 1030247 A2) (hereinafter “Mendelevitch”). As noted above, Applicant has amended the claims to include the allowable subject matter. Further, Applicant has canceled rejected claims 16, 17, 31, 32, 46 and 47. Thus, this rejection is moot.

CONCLUSION

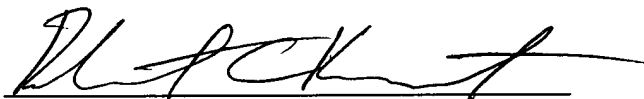
Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and prompt notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5181-78600/RCK.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

- ☒ Return Receipt Postcard
- ☐ Petition for Extension of Time
- ☐ Notice of Change of Address
- ☐ Other:

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: November 18, 2005